



Week of May 28 – June 3, 2008

## 101 Critical Days of Summer

The summer season is upon us, and brings with it sunny days, family vacations and barbecues with friends. Unfortunately, though, the season also brings increased risks and opportunities for reckless behavior from which none of us are immune. By focusing on safety, however, mishaps and fatalities can be avoided. Airmen should be aware of the risks and consequences associated with dangerous behavior as we enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Just as we've done every year with this annual safety campaign (which began May 23 and runs through Sept. 2), Airmen are encouraged to evaluate their behavior and be good Wingmen to one another. Understanding high-risk behavior and taking steps to reduce the chances of mishaps, injuries and fatalities saves lives. Sadly, we lost 19 Airmen last summer, two more than the previous year. The majority of those losses were from vehicle mishaps—eight were in four-wheel vehicles and seven were in motorcycle mishaps. Incidentally, the factors involved in these mishaps included speeding, alcohol and not using seat belts—all risks that are easily correctable.

Now that warmer weather is here, keep the following points in mind while planning your activities:

- Risk management is a tool to assist us in fighting these summer hazards. It can be done on the fly, anywhere, anytime, by anyone. Simply ask yourself: What am I doing? What can go wrong? Could I hurt myself or others? What actions can I take to reduce or eliminate danger?
- Be a good Wingman. This involves watching each others' backs to prevent injury or loss of life. A good Wingman will recognize risky behavior and have the courage to speak up.
- Make safety a habit. Wear seatbelts in cars and required protective equipment on motorcycles. Remain alert while at the wheel and plan rest breaks at frequent intervals. Don't speed – it is better to arrive late than not arrive at all. Don't drink and drive. Anticipate the unexpected and be ready to react.

Enjoy your summer season; use the tools available to ensure you and your Wingman survive it.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>

*Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.*